

curvature  $K_1$ , and at least one further bent section, with said bent sections of said shaft having the same sign of curvature and being located substantially in the same plane.

2. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 1, wherein the shaft comprises a single further or second bent section having a second curvature  $K_2$ , which second bent section is located proximal to the first bent section.

3. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 2, wherein the radius of the first curvature  $K_1$  of said first bent section is smaller than the radius of the second curvature  $K_2$  of said second bent section.

4. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 3, further comprising a straight intermediate section between said first bent section and said second bent section.

5. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 4, further comprising a straight end section distal to the first bent section.

6. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 5, wherein the straight end section and the straight intermediate section include a first obtuse angle ( $\alpha_1$ ).

7. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 6, wherein said straight intermediate section along the axis of the guiding aid includes a second obtuse angle ( $\alpha_2$ ).

8. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 7, wherein said first obtuse angle ( $\alpha_1$ ) and second obtuse angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) are between 120° and 150°.

9. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 1, wherein said bent sections are substantially in the shaped of a circular arc.

10. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 1, wherein said shaft is tapered toward its distal end.

11. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 1, wherein a helically wound spring is located around at least a part of said shaft.

12. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 11, wherein said helically wound spring is provided at its distal end with a rounded terminal element.

13. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 1, wherein said shaft is made of a material having superelastic characteristics.

14. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 13, wherein said shaft is made of superelastic nitinol.

15. (Once Amended) The guiding aid of claim 1, wherein radiopaque means are provided in the region of said distal end of said shaft.